

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (cancelled).

2. (currently amended) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 4 18 wherein said latching devices are releasably connectable to said connecting member.

3. (original) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 2 wherein said latching devices are connectable to the connecting member by means of a snap fit.

4. (currently amended) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 4 18 wherein each latching device has a peg on which said locating surface is disposed, said reference positions including holes which are engagable by said pegs, or the like to register with a preformed hole in the furniture item ~~corresponding to a respective drawer mounting means and~~ said latching devices are designed to be connectable to the connecting member whilst their pegs are disposed in ~~registered in respective said preformed holes.~~

5. (currently amended) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 4 18 wherein said connecting member is designed to be located for slidable movement in a preformed groove in the furniture item.

6. (currently amended) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 4 18 wherein each said latching device is arranged to cooperate with a pin associated with its respective drawer.

7. (currently amended) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 6 wherein the drawers are mounted to the furniture item in ~~non-adjustable positions~~ and ~~each pin is mounted on its associated drawer~~ by drawer runners and each pin is mounted on a drawer runner.

8. (currently amended) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 4 ~~6~~ wherein the drawers are mounted to the furniture item in adjustable positions and each pin is mounted on the drawer mounting means of its associated drawer.

9. (currently amended) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 8 wherein said drawer mounting means are configured for receiving said mount for their respective pins at ~~a-chese~~ chosen positions.

10. (original) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 8 wherein said pins are mounted to their respective drawer mounting means by means of a snap fitting.

11. (currently amended) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 4 ~~18~~ wherein the mechanism is operable additionally and selectively to disallow opening movement of all the drawers.

Claim 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (cancelled).

14. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 4 ~~3~~ 19, wherein said reference positions are defined by respective holes provided in said furniture item for assembly of respective drawer ~~runner~~ runners for said plurality of drawers.

15. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~13~~, 19, wherein said reference positions are defined by respective drawer runners for said plurality of drawers.

16. (original) A drawer locking device for an item of furniture having a plurality of drawers, said locking device comprising a plurality of blocking devices each of which, in use, is movable between a first position permitting opening of a respective drawer and a second position in which opening of the respective drawer is blocked, and a connecting member for connecting said blocking devices such that movement of any one of the blocking device causes a similar movement of each other blocking device, said blocking devices each having a first connecting portion for releasable connection with respective reference connections associated with each drawer in said furniture item and a second connecting portion for connection with said connecting member, the arrangement being such that said connecting member can be connected to said second connecting portions of said blocking devices when said blocking devices are connected with said reference connections by said first connecting portions whereby said blocking devices are connected to said connecting member with a spacing substantially determined by said reference connections.

Claim 17 cancelled.

18. (new) A locking mechanism for an item of furniture having two or more drawers and means mounting the drawers for opening and closing movement, the item of furniture having a plurality of spaced apart reference positions on the item of furniture, each drawer has associated with it a latching

device co-operable with the item of furniture to allow opening movement of the drawer in a first position of the latching device and to prevent said opening movement in a second position of the latching device, each one of said latching devices having a locating surface which is engagable with one of said reference positions to position said one latching device relative to other reference positions and other latching devices having locating surfaces engaging the other reference positions, there being a connecting member linking together the latching devices of all the drawers such that opening of any one of the drawers causes the latching devices of all the other drawers to move to their second positions, whilst closure of said one drawer causes the latching devices of all the other drawers to return to their first positions, wherein said latching devices are connected to the connecting member at positions which are spaced apart by distances which are the same as distances between the reference positions on the item of furniture.

19. (new) A method of assembling a drawer locking device for a furniture item comprising a plurality of drawers, said drawer locking device comprising respective blocking devices for blocking movement of said plurality of drawers and a connector for connecting said blocking devices such that movement of any one of said plurality of blocking devices caused by opening of the respective drawer causes a corresponding movement of each of remaining blocking device to a respective position in which opening of the respective drawers is blocked, aid method comprising connecting said blocking devices with said furniture item at respective reference positions provided on said furniture item, said blocking devices being ineffective to block movement of said plurality of

drawers when said blocking devices are in said reference positions on said furniture item, connecting said connector to said blocking devices when said blocking devices are connected with said furniture item at said respective reference positions to provide a drawer locking device in which said blocking devices are fixed to said connector at spaced apart positions determined by said reference positions, disconnecting said blocking devices from said furniture item while maintaining said blocking devices connected to said connector, and connecting said blocking devices with said furniture item while maintaining said blocking devices connected to said connector.